

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A film covered battery composed of battery elements having a configuration in which a positive electrode faces a negative electrode, and a covering film having at least a heat-seal resin layer and a thin metal film layer that are laminated, for encapsulating said battery element with said heat-seal resin layer being positioned inside, and sealing said battery element by heat-sealing a joint section along a peripheral edge, said joint section having at least one folded side, said film-covered battery characterized in that said joint section is formed with at least one fold, and said fold has a thickness smaller than a thickness around said fold, wherein said fold has a thickness of said heat-seal resin layer smaller than a thickness of said heat-seal resin layer around said fold.

2. (original): The film-covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said fold is a groove.

3. (original): The film-covered battery according to claim 2, wherein said groove is formed in at least one side of said joint section.

4. (original): The film-covered battery according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said folds are formed in said joint section, such that said joint section is folded along each of said folds.

5. (original): The film-covered battery according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of said folds are formed in said joint section, such that said joint section is folded along each of said folds.

6. (currently amended): A film covered battery composed of battery elements having a configuration in which a positive electrode faces a negative electrode, and a covering film having at least a heat-seal resin layer and a thin metal film layer that are laminated, for encapsulating said battery element with said heat-seal resin layer being positioned inside, and sealing said battery element by heat-sealing a joint section along a peripheral edge, said joint section having at least one folded side, said film-covered battery characterized in that said joint section is formed with a plurality of folds, said folds have a thickness smaller than a thickness of said joint section around said folds, wherein said fold has a thickness of said heat-seal resin layer smaller than a thickness of said heat-seal resin layer around said fold, said folds are grooves formed in at least one side of said joint section, and said joint section is folded along each of said folds.

7. (original): The film-covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said battery element is one of a chemical battery and a capacitor.

8. (withdrawn): A fabrication method of a film-covered battery which has a battery element encapsulated within a covering film having at least one folded joint section formed around said battery element, said method characterized by comprising the steps of:

forming at least one fold thinner than the thickness of said joint section therearound in said joint section; and

folding said joint section along said fold.

9. (withdrawn): The fabrication method of a film-covered battery according to claim 8, comprising the step of forming said fold by pressing at least one side of said joint section with a member having a protrusion.

10. (withdrawn): The fabrication method of a film-covered battery according to claim 9, comprising the step of heat-sealing and joining said joint section of said covering film having a heat-sealing property by heating and pressing said joint section with said member.

11. (withdrawn): The fabrication method of a film-covered battery according to claim 8, comprising the step of preparing one of a chemical battery and a capacitor as said battery element.